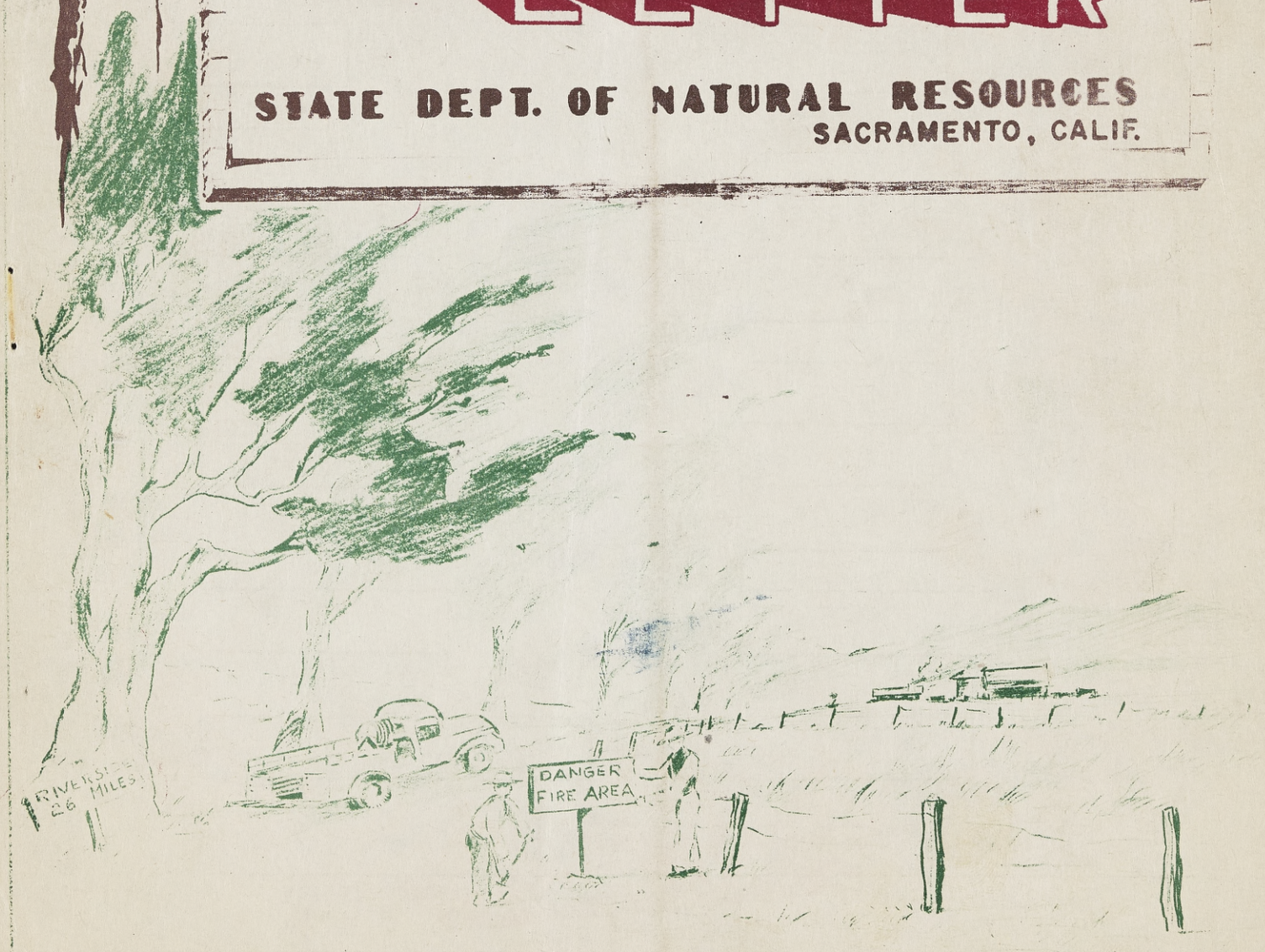
OCTOBER VOL 8 NO 10

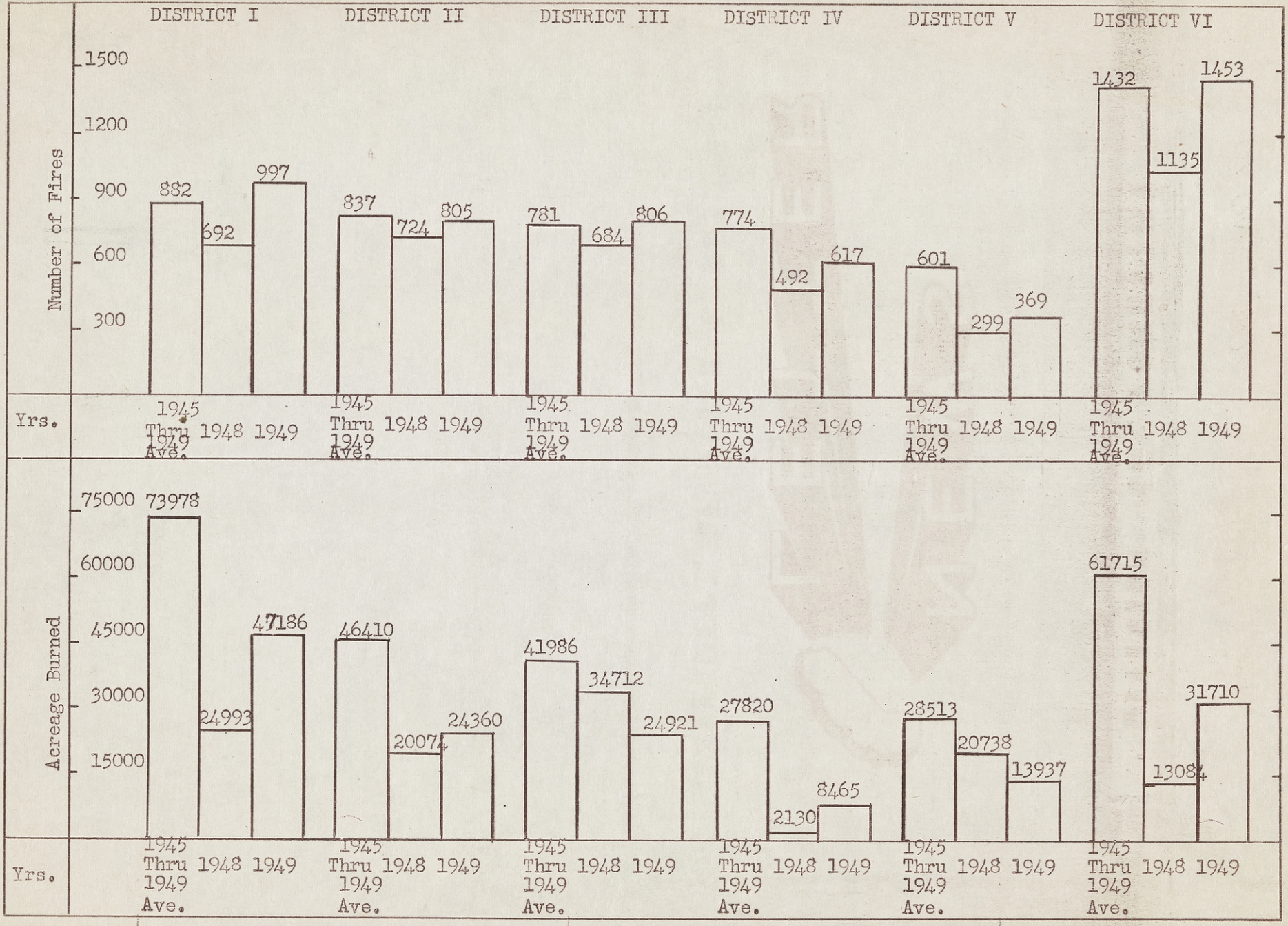
DIVISION OF FORESTRY

NEWS LETTER

STATE DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
SACRAMENTO, CALIF.



COMPARATIVE RECORD OF *FOREST FIRES 1945-1949 ON LANDS PROTECTED BY CALIFORNIA DIVISION OF FORESTRY
OCTOBER 31, 1949 CUMULATIVE TOTAL FROM JANUARY 1



*THIS SUMMARY IS COMPILED FROM 10-DAY RECORDS AND WILL BE AT VARIANCE WITH THE FINAL YEARLY SUMMARY COMPILED FROM INDIVIDUAL FIRE REPORTS

FIRE RECORD - REGION 5 U. S. FOREST SERVICE
Report for Period Ending October 31, 1949

Current 15-Day Period										Period from Jan. 1 to Oct. 31, 1949									
Class of Fires							Area Burned				Class of Fires						Area Burned		
A	B	C	D	E	Total	Man Caused	N.F. Land & Inside	Total With-in Pr. Bdry.	National Forest	A	B	C	D	E	Total	Man Caused	N.F Land & Inside	Total With-In Pr. Bdry.
6	2			1	9	1	7102	7102	Angeles	43	15	2		2	62	44	7147	7147
2					2	2			Cleve.	27	8	4	6	3	48	43	1548	1573
3	2				5	2	1	1	Eldor.	75	20		2		97	37	359	363
									Inyo	27	7	5	1	1	41	13	1396	1396
1					1	1			Klamath	152	43	7	2		204	43	602	606
4					4	4			Lassen	162	26	3	1	1	139	60	1413	1479
									Los P.	15	7	1	2	3	28	26	6255	6255
	1				1	1			Mendoc.	10	6	4	2	2	24	17	2029	2029
									Modoc	107	31	11	1	2	152	36	8634	11293
4					4	4			Plumas	179	65	14	4	1	263	89	1513	2311
8					8	5			San B.	68	12	3	2	1	86	74	6672	6672
8	1	1			10		51	51	Sequoia	68	16	11	2	3	100	37	2164	2226
4	1				5	5		6	Shasta	223	59	9	5	1	297	120	6995	7451
3	1				4	4	1	1	Sierra	82	32	3			117	55	119	125
									Six R.	30	13	3	2	1	49	32	361	361
2	1		1		4	2	251	251	Stan.	64	30	9	2	1	106	64	7110	7112
4					4	4			Tahoe	130	37	6	3	1	177	77	2288	2374
1					1	1			Trinity	47	12	6	2	1	68	24	8433	8668
50	9	1	1	1	62	36	7406	7412	Totals	1509	439	101	39	24	2112	891	65038	69441

Corresponding Totals Same Period 1948

23	8	3			34	30	113	119	Totals	643	214	47	14	18	936	721	50339	50585

Five Year Average Same Period 1944 to 1948

31	13	1			46	24	151	209	Average	966	322	70	22	34	1413	766	67724	70818

PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Prof. John H. Lewis, 35, of Humboldt State College wildlife department., was killed on night of September 24 when his jeep went over the bank on Klamath River near Weitchpec. A leader in conservation education, he was instrumental in starting a yearlong course in conservation (one of the few such in California) at Humboldt State in 1948.

Administrative Digest
September 28, 1949

YOSEMITE DRAWS MORE VISITORS

During the travel year from October 1, 1948, to September 30, 1949, Yosemite National Park was visited by a total of 802,572 people. This breaks all park records for travel and exceeds the previous record year of 1947 by 3.4%. It is 7% greater than the 749,861 visitors in 1948.

News release, National Park Service

DRY ICE TESTS POSTPONED

Plans to test Dr. V. J. Schaefer's theory that incipient lightning storm clouds can be dissipated by dry icing were postponed until 1950, after Nature failed to produce the pair of simultaneous, similar clouds essential to such a test. Although the Forest Service and the Air Forces cooperated by equipping a C-47 and a B-29 plane with a dry-ice hopper and H. T. Gisborne waited for six weeks at Priest River for the proper cloud conditions, not a single test could be made.

(R-1 News, 9-16-49)

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

October weather was unusually warm throughout California and, although no critical conditions were experienced, a large number of fires occurred. During the month 581 fires started on lands protected by the Division in comparison to 411 for the month of October last year and 484 the average monthly total 1945 thru 1949. Suppression personnel were able to hold acreage burned to 4,027 acres compared to 19,300 razed during October, 1949; and 75,800 acres for the average October burn during the years 1945 thru 1949. North winds prevailed in some areas but failed to reach critical intensities. Accumulative totals to date, January 1 thru ~~October~~ October 31, 1949, shows 5,047 fires started on lands protected by the Division, compared to 4,026 in 1948 and 5,307 as the average number experienced during the last five years. Acreage burned to date has been held at 150,500 acres. 115,700 acres were burned over the similar period of 1948 and the average number of acres scorched for the period 1945 thru 1949 totals 280,400. The acreage figures are noteworthy for foresters feel burning conditions this season were unusually critical and the potentials of fire loss extreme. Despite the severity of the summer fire weather it is also interesting to note that the total number of fires is slightly below the five year average despite the fact that there was heavier usage of foothill and mountain areas by both industry and the public at large this year. There is little question in our minds that the wealth of information reaching California people thru expanded actions of cooperating organizations and the major informational medias have certainly helped this year to keep both fire occurrences and fire losses to a minimum.

With the exception of the Southern California areas there has been sufficient rain throughout the State to bring the fire season to a close. Scattered showers helped the Southern California condition considerably during the first part of November and we are extremely hopeful that additional rainfall will occur in that section of California.

As foresters anticipate a poor forest tree seed crop next year, the Division has made every effort this season to build up a considerable seed bank at the State nursery to provide for the needs of our experimental nursery

program for at least the next two year period. Cones now fill every available storage space at the State Nursery and seed extraction and cleaning will be in progress during the entire winter period.

The Division released this month a mimeograph publication entitled "Tree Planting for California Forests and Farms." The booklet includes information concerning State laws governing the sale of trees and seed, methods of planting, care of trees and a complete list of trees available from the State Nursery. It has been prepared as an aid to interested farmers and forest land owners who desire such information.

The Division has planned but one sale of Christmas trees from California State Forests. Approximately 5,000 trees have been harvested from the Latour State Forest, from over-stocked lands by C.Y.A. labor. They have been advertised for sale and will be sold in lots of 500 trees each.

Two members of the Division's technical staff will attend a training school conducted by the School of Forestry, University of California, in cooperation with the U. S. Forest Service at the Feather River Experimental Station near Quincy, Plumas County. A week of instruction primarily having to do with the use of aerial photography as applied to forestry will be given to those foresters in attendance.

Farm forestry work progressed satisfactorily during the month, many contacts being made with small forest land owners in forest areas of the State. In District I, the North Coast area, at least twelve new owners were contacted during the month.

A considerable amount of range improvement work was accomplished in October by ranchers in the North Coast and in the Northern and Central region of the Sierra Nevada foothills. Weather conditions were favorable for the use of fire as a land clearance tool and ranchers grasped the opportunity to initiate many range improvement projects. Division of Forestry personnel spent many hours in standby service giving additional protection to lands adjacent to control burned projects. Experimental work was conducted at the Rescue Range Experimental project in El Dorado County. A 20-acre area was cleared by bulldozers for experimental seeding work, another plot re-treated with chemical sprays, and a demonstration was held for the use of portable powered saws for the removal of brush vegetation. On the Springdell Experimental Range area in San Benito County fencing was started during the month and will be completed some time in November.

The winter construction program got under way during the month. The temporary work camp for Department of Correction inmates in District I near Ft. Bragg, Mendocino County, has been completed except for the installation of a water system and heating units. Leveling for permanent structures is expected to be completed shortly. Plans were completed in District III, the Mother Lode area, for the establishment of a temporary work camp at Higgins Corner Station in Nevada County. C.D.C. inmates will be housed at this station while working on the permanent camp buildings in the area. The temporary Miramonte C.D.C. Camp in Fresno County, District IV, has been finished and water, power, and telephone services developed. Foundations for the warehouse has been poured and 25 tent platforms constructed. Individual building sites have been excavated and foundation forms for the equipment shed are in place at the Slack Canyon C.D.C. in Monterey County, District V. Inmates have started on heavier construction work on the permanent camp. The temporary camp at Oak

Glen C.D.C. Camp in Riverside County will be completed about the 1st of November and construction will start on the permanent camp.

Minor construction work was under way in most areas. The fire control station barracks at Korbel in Humboldt County has been completed. Work has been started on the erection of two residences and an office at Sonora in Tuolumne County, on equipment sheds in Calaveras County, and on equipment sheds and a ranger residence in Amador County. Barracks and other buildings at various suppression stations in Madera and Merced Counties are progressing satisfactorily. Work was started on a twelve men barracks at Hollister in San Benito County and, except for a final coat of paint the ranger residence at Hollister is ready for occupancy.

National Fire Prevention Week was observed by Division personnel throughout the State. The Division participated in a great number of programs, demonstrations, and presentations before adult groups discussing the reasons for and importance of outdoor fire prevention.

STATE FORESTRY OFFICE MOVED

W. P. Maguire, Farm Forester for El Dorado, Placer, Nevada, Yuba, and Sierra Counties has moved his office from the Post Office Building, Placerville to the County Ranger Station near Camino. He wishes to advise the public and his clients that his new office location is at Mt. Danaher Station near Camino.

ABOUT THE DIVISION

NEWS FROM AMADOR COUNTY:

The month of September was a rather mild fire month for Amador County, the largest fire being only 125 acres. We certainly had our fingers crossed at times for many requests for help came from other counties and not too many hands were left to hold down the fort.

Plane reconnaissance was used after a lightning storm on the chance of spotting a smoke. A snag on fire in the very top was picked up with ease and men and equipment guided to it in a matter of minutes. The use of a plane for searches of this type is essential and effective fire control. It has proven itself twice in Amador County this season. If anyone has a good preventative for air sickness we would appreciate a little advice.

We note in last month's issue of the News Letter where Coulterville Station in Mariposa County had a party from the revenue of a "kitty". Pine Lodge Station under Foreman Bob Rolfe, had a similar party this month paid for by the earnings of their "kitty". They had turkey and everything that goes with it. I was told that after the feed there was still twenty some odd dollars left. This rather amazed me. I didn't realize how colorful some of our speech must be.

To get back to the more serious aspects of our work we wish to mention the meeting which the Winton Lumber Company sponsored in the vicinity of their Lilly Gap Camp in Calaveras County. The meeting was for the purpose of demonstrating good and bad falling and skidding practices in the woods. Winton's sent invitations to many operators, owners, and private persons interested in the lumber industry. There were over a hundred persons present, some from as far south as Bakersfield. It is one of the most impressing

meetings relative to forest practices that I have attended. The people who do the work in the woods were there and the fact that they were there indicates that their interest in good forest practice is aroused. For my part I believe this is an indication that good management and conservation in the woods has come a long way. There wouldn't have been much response to a meeting of this kind a few years back.

G. O. Phibbs
State Forest Ranger

FROM ELDORADO COUNTY

After much fitting, refitting, and forcing with a little persuasive language, El Dorado County personnel have finally succeeded in assembling what we think is the tallest lookout tower in the CDF, 109 ft., 11 inches. Plans are under way for the installation of a repeater station on the tower at Danaher for the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office. Completion of the plan is expected in the near future.

The new office building has been occupied for nearly a month and the office force is still looking for odds and ends and coming up with things they never saw before. That's one reason why El Dorado was not heard from in the last issue of the News Letter.

We have had a variety of meat on the table the last month or so, Foreman Larry Richey brought in an antelope which he shot in Lassen County, FEO Williamson was successful in bagging an exceptionally large buck, and Driver Charlie Lunsford killed two bear on his first hunt. By the time the next issue is out we hope to have eaten some elk.

After many set backs, the new Pilot Hill station was opened this month just in time to start thinking about closing it for the winter. Excavation has been started at the El Dorado Station for the construction of a new barracks, a mess hall and (we hope) a new garage.

Jim Barnhart
Assistant Ranger

YUBA COUNTY

With the end of fire season (nearly) in sight, Yuba County is experiencing a turnover of Truck Drivers and Fire Fighters.

Two ex-Fire Fighters have been advanced to Truck Drivers--Stanley Barrie and George Meyer.

And with the decline in the personnel of Fire Fighters, we have the usual increase in construction and maintenance facing us.

The Brownsville Camp is busy with its water development problems, (granite, that is) and Marysville is continuing activity in landscaping. We are completing a major project in the way of 1500 cubic yards of dirt fill, and, with the aid of District Engineer Charles Tobi, we have completed our lawn leveling. We are also happy to announce that building materials have commenced to flow in, so we may begin construction of the headquarter's garage.

Also along the construction line.....the Alicia County Station had it's face lifted, or, rather, lowered. An observation post, dating from the days of the war, has been removed and a new roof has replaced it. Aiding in this project were Truck Drivers Al Paloska and Hubert Edwards. The latter is still trying to explain what he was doing on the partially constructed roof one night, when he lost his balance and fell through the ceiling, thus spraining his back. For this, he demanded five days CTO in order to recuperate...during deer season.

One Yuba County hunter, in desperation has turned to the fertile fields of Utah. Ranger Mike Brock, with a glean in his eye, took leave of Yuba County October 20th and although at the time of this writing he has not yet made his triumphant return, we fully expect him to bring back the biggest buck shot in Utah. There are rumors that the District III Party Planning Commission is expecting him to bring home the "bacon".

H. P. Reinecker
Assistant Ranger

NEVADA COUNTY

A temporary C.D.C. Camp has been established in Nevada County at Higgins Corner suppression station. With the addition of a large 70 x 18 dormitory and a shower house building, along with the buildings that were there we will house approximately 30 inmates plus overhead. We only had ten days notice of the incoming camp so a mad scramble ensued to make the necessary preparations. All hands went to work on it and at the end of seven days thanks to the good construction and leadership ability of Willard Weselsky Assistant Ranger, the camp was ready for occupancy on time. The permanent C.D.C. Camp is to be located in Placer County and so Associate Ranger, Jim Hayes will be acting liaison officer between two counties until the permanent camp is established.

Congratulations are in order for F.E.O. Everett Fox who became the father of a new firefighter last night, November 2nd. No name given yet. The Foxes are also parents of a daughter whose birthday is also November 2nd. Pretty good timing I' say!

A New CSEA Chapter, Goldminers #102 has been formed in Nevada City of which the CDF seems to have a majority membership. The fact that Associate Ranger Jim Hayes and Assistant Ranger Willard Weselsky are both newly elected officers bears out this fact.

A few of our Civil Service Employees will have to leave us this Fall due to winter layoff. Foreman W. T. Bankus, and Drivers Bob Odgers and Jim Williams will transfer to the C.D.C. program and Foreman Bill Mitchell will transfer to Placer County. We are fortunate in having year long jobs for all our Civil Service men.

D. E. Knowlton
State Forest Ranger

AERIAL PATROL IN WESTERN FRESNO COUNTY DISCONTINUED

The aerial patrol in Western Fresno County was discontinued on October 20th with rising humidity and other factors which lessened the normal fire hazards of the area. In general, the service was satisfactory and it is

felt that its service as a fire prevention medium is incalculable. Local residents learned to know the ship and the fire patrol, and though the plane was operated on an irregular schedule many persons claimed to see the "Fire Plane" when it was actually on the ground. In any event, the area which was under patrol did not suffer a single campaign fire, even though the ground cover, terrain and useage is the most hazardous.

Communications between plane and ground worked perfectly and several potential fires were prevented by prompt liaison between ground and air. We of District IV compliment Mr. N. T. McCollum of the Coalinga Air Service for the interest shown in this project and for the many miles he flew over and above his contract so that we in this District could be of greater service to the public in reducing our man-caused fires.

C. E. Metcalf, Deputy State Forester

KINGS COUNTY

Kings County is right at the top of the list of those counties awaiting the cooperation of ole Jupe Pluvius after doubling of fires in October over the same month last year. Although no serious blazes were recorded, 36 involving 35 acres and a total loss of $12,660 occurred against 15 for October 1948. Even so with the addition of the dissolved Avenal Fire District, the occurrence to date is 174 against 143 for 1948.

October also weeded out the mountaineers and seafarers on days off with the progress of deer season and the opening of a government clam reserve near Pismo. No particulars will be furnished to avoid personal embarrassment.

Lifted eyebrows are raised on anyone mentioning the word "butane" after three calls to tanker accidents and one call to a labor camp storage tank. The only resulting fire, the first one along the Fresno County line in late September, set some unofficial track records when the trailer became jet propelled as one end was blown out.

Joe Barros, Foreman at Hanford, was hospitalized twice during the month with pneumonia but he is on the job again herding the Hanford Headquarters Construction Project.

C. E. Lindley
Associate State Forest Ranger

WELCOME TO NEW PERSONNEL IN DISTRICT IV

District IV welcomes into its organization the following personnel: Robert J. Moran from San Diego County who has been appointed as Associate Ranger in Madera County to replace Alvin Filippini who was transferred to the District Office. Jack Cullumber of Placer County who was recently assigned to the Rancheria District of Madera County replaces Associate Ranger Hickle who has been assigned to Range Improvement. To complete the Madera County picture we must point out that Former Dispatcher Dick Ford has finally caught up with his twin, Assistant Ranger Bob Ford of Santa Cruz, by receiving his appointment as Assistant Ranger in Kings County. Dick has been replaced by Tom O. Potter as Madera's Dispatcher. Last, but not least, John "Corky" Clark, former Assistant Ranger in Tulare, has been promoted to Forestry Work Project

Supervisor in charge of the C.D.C. Camp at Miramonte, with "Corky's" berth as Assistant Ranger in the Miramonte District being filled by Allen Bensen, a transferee from Shasta County.

C. E. Metcalf, Deputy State Forester

NEWS FROM DISTRICT VI HEADQUARTERS

The new CDC Camp at Oak Glen (12 miles north of Beaumont, on the Riverside San Bernardino County line) is really moving right along. With the delivery of the camp's vehicle complement of 3 new stakesides, dump truck, pickup and D-7 Bulldozer, and under the guidance of Project Supervisor Dick Groninger, construction of the permanent camp is getting under way. On Tuesday, November 8, the temporary tent camp was officially activated and at the present time subsists a crew of 20 inmates from the Institution at Chino. With the incentive caused by the splendid view offered by this campsite along with the famous Oak Glen apples, cider, and abundance of 4-point bucks, we anticipate an increase in crime as a means of obtaining "positions" in this new camp.

Jack D. Burke
Associate Ranger

Mrs. Jeanette Burke, who has been with San Bernardino Headquarters since 1944, has undergone an operation. Jeanette entered the Community Hospital in San Bernardino on October 16. We wish her well and hope that she will soon completely recuperate and return to her duties as Intermediate Clerk, feeling her old self again.

Tempus Fugit! May Kluchka, who has been with District Headquarters six months as Intermediate Steno-Clerk, has spent a week's vacation in San Francisco "My old home town." May was most enthusiastic about the progress in San Francisco in the way of construction of new homes and apartment houses. Never say "Frisco" to May; she is a native, and them's fightin' words.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

During the period of September 25 to October 25 there was a total of 43 fires in Riverside County, none of which was more than five acres.

The new addition to the barracks at San Jacinto Station is nearing completion, and work has been started on the temporary, prefabricated barracks building at the new Temecula Station site.

Truman Holland
State Forest Ranger

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

The first phase of construction has begun on the Devore Station. The crews started October 24 to dig the foundations, but ran into a little trouble, it seems for every shovel full of dirt, a boulder was uncovered; the deeper the foundation, the bigger the boulders. But construction is moving right along.

W. W. Skinner
State Forest Ranger

MINNEWAWA C.D.C. CAMP

For our major out-of-camp project we are continuing the reconstruction of Tecate Peak truck trail C.D.F. #31. Our number 2 crew has been working on this project approximately nine months and we anticipate another year's work before this road will be placed into good construction. We are resurfacing the road bed, installing a drainage system, cleaning out existing culverts, widening turns and constructing rock retaining walls where necessary. Also we have located a spring approximately 3 miles below the lookout and we have received Ranger Miller's approval to construct a reservoir and develop as much water as possible.

Our number 1 crew is at present working on the Valley View truck trail C.D.F. #20, installing a drainage system and doing general maintenance work.

Our number 3 crew has been working on the construction of the new lookout tower at Mt. Woodson; this crew consisting of three carpenters and two laborers. From all reports these men are doing very well.

Our in-camp carpenter shop has completed the construction of ten sink and dish cabinets for Deputy Metcalf's District. The five dish cabinets are at present enroute to his headquarters. We plan on storing the five sink cabinets at the Valley Center warehouse, San Diego County, pending arrangements for transportation North. We are now looking forward to the opportunity of constructing 30 mess tables and benches for other C.D.C. camps.

New bids have been submitted covering the drilling of a new water well for camp. We expect to receive the Service Agreement in the near future.

In conclusion we wish to state the Forestry Project Supervisor anticipates moving into his newly constructed home in Monterey Heights near La Mesa, in approximately three weeks. At this time Foreman Charles W. Compton will move into building T-319, now being occupied by the Project Supervisor.

Stanley L. Moe
Project Supervisor Camp Minnewawa